

Charles C. Laffer

ISSN 0003-4827

No known copyright restrictions.

---

Recommended Citation

"Charles C. Laffer." *The Annals of Iowa* 20 (1935), 156-156.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5805>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

and referendum, and many reforms in civic and state measures through its columns. In 1889 he was nominated by the Union Labor party for state senator, was endorsed by the Democratic party, was elected, and served in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth general assemblies. Although the Senate in the Twenty-third was evenly divided when he voted with the Democrats, yet he voted independently and often held the balance of power. He introduced a bill for woman suffrage, favored the Australian ballot, the two-cent railroad fare in Iowa, free text books, and prohibition. In 1891 he was the Sixth District member of the State Central Committee of the Peoples party. In 1892, the same year James B. Weaver was that party's candidate for president, Dr. Engle was that party's candidate for Congress in the Sixth District. He was the author of two books, *Heredity and Environment*, 1909, and *Atrocities of War, or The Beauties of Peace*, 1910. He had been a Mason seventy-three years, or since 1862, and was reputed to be affiliated with Masonry the longest of any one in Iowa. He was a past president of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa. He was a sort of practical idealist, doing good among the people both in his vocation and in his many other activities.

---

CHARLES C. LAFFER was born on a farm near Sigourney, Iowa, November 1, 1870, and died in Des Moines June 2, 1935. Burial was at Sigourney. His parents were Henry and Georgiana Crist Laffer. His education was acquired in public schools of Keokuk County. In 1889 he left the farm and entered a harness shop in Sigourney where he learned the harness making trade. A few years later he went into business for himself in Sigourney with a harness store of his own. His first public position was that of city clerk. His interest in people, his social nature and ability to make and hold friends, and interest in public matters naturally led him into politics. He became deputy sheriff of Keokuk County during the service of Sheriff James H. Barlow, 1894 to 1898, and in the fall of 1897 was himself elected sheriff, was re-elected two years later, and served from 1898 to 1902. When sworn in January 1, 1898, he was but little more than twenty-seven years old, and was said to be the youngest sheriff in the state. On leaving the sheriff's office in 1902 he re-entered the harness business and later became a director in the First National Bank, and also in the Union Savings Bank, both of Sigourney. In 1914 he was elected senator and served in the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh general assemblies. In 1917 he sold his harness business, for a few years was in the real estate business, but in 1920 became a state automobile inspector, holding that position until 1932.

---

JOHN TINLEY BROOKS was born on a farm in Keokuk County, Iowa, October 17, 1850, and died in Claremont, California, February 28, 1933. His parents were John G. and Mary (Kyger) Brooks. He attended public school and was graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, in 1875, including the study of law in his liberal arts course.

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.